

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 09327 071411Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-04 DODE-00 /017 W  
-----071413Z 098221 /46

P 071325Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5122

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 9327

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST FROM AMBASSADOR GARDNER

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MILI, IT  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO U.S. OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE LATTANZIO

1. A SENIOR OFFICER AT THE NATO OFFICE OF THE ITALIAN MOD HAS SUGGESTED TO MY STAFF THAT IT WOULD BE MUTUALLY USEFUL IF AN INVITATION TO THE UNITED STATES COULD BE EXTENDED TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE LATTANZIO FROM SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN. I THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA, IF SECRETARY BROWN CAN FIT SUCH A VISIT INTO HIS SCHEDULE.

2. LATTANZIO HAS MADE IT KNOWN IN THE MOD THAT, BARRING ANY RADICAL ALTERATION IN PRESENT ITALIAN POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS, HE EXPECTS TO REMAIN IN HIS OFFICE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. LATTANZIO IS ONE OF FEW DEFENSE MINISTERS IN RECENT MEMORY WHO ENJOYS THE ESTEEM OF THE MAJORITY OF THE SENIOR ITALIAN MILITARY. HE IS A CONSCIENTIOUS CONSERVATIVE WHO DOES HIS HOMEWORK, SUPPORTS STRONGLY TIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ITALY AND ADVOCATES AN ACTIVE ROLE FOR ITALY IN THE ALLIANCE. AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE U.S. WOULD STRENGTHEN HIS POLITICAL POSITION AND INCREASE HIS CREDIBILITY AS AN INTERLOCUTOR ON MUTUAL SECURITY ISSUES.

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PAGE 02 ROME 09327 071411Z

3. SECRETARY BROWN PRESUMABLY WILL BE SEEING LATTANZIO IN OTTAWA THIS MONTH AND AGAIN AT THE NEXT NPG AT BARI IN OCTOBER. AN EARLY INVITATION, PERHAPS FOR NOVEMBER, COULD IN THE INTERIM BE USED TO SOME POLITICAL ADVANTAGE HERE. WOULD YOU PLEASE CONVEY THE SUGGESTION TO

SECRETARY BROWN ALONG WITH MY ENDORSEMENT OF IT.GARDNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INVITATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2247675  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED VISIT TO U.S. OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE LATTANZIO  
**TAGS:** MILI, IT, US, (BROWN, HAROLD), (LATTANZIO, VITO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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